

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 MAY 1983

Shultz Tour - Lebanon

Shultz Talks — Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin met with Secretary of State George Shultz, who had returned to Israel with "new formulations" on the disputed issues in the negotiations, Jerusalem radio reported on 1 May. Begin said after the meeting that the Israeli and Lebanese positions remain the same, according to a subsequent radio report. Earlier, Begin told the 1 May Israeli Cabinet meeting that the talks with Shultz have extended beyond Lebanon to Israeli-U.S. relations and that an improvement in these relations is closely linked to progress in the Lebanon negotiations. IDF Radio noted. Israeli Government sources cited by Jerusalem radio stressed that Israel does not intend to make concessions on the arrangements with Lebanon in return for an improvement in relations with the United States. According to the radio, Israel wants the United States to sign a bilateral memorandum of understanding before the IDF withdraws from Lebanon. The memorandum would reaffirm U.S. refusal to hold contacts with the PLO before the latter recognizes Israel's right to exist. Concerning another aspect of Israeli-U.S. relations, the Tel Aviv daily HA'ARETZ spoke of "fury and anger" in Israel because Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger has "torpedoed" Shultz' earlier announcement that the United States would give Israel the technical data necessary to develop the Lavi aircraft.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim arrived in Damascus to discuss the Lebanon negotiations with Syrian officials, Damascus radio reported on 2 May. Earlier, Salim expressed hope that Shultz' return to Beirut on 3 May will bring "real progress" in the negotiations, according to Beirut radio. In remarks broadcast by Beirut radio after their lengthy talks with Shultz over the weekend, both Salim and Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan admitted that the negotiations were difficult. Salim also announced that as soon as Lebanon reaches a draft agreement with Israel it will work with Syria to formulate a withdrawal timetable for the Syrian forces.

According to Jerusalem radio, Shultz will visit Damascus on 4 May if there is "genuine progress" in the talks.

Security — Two shells landed near the U.S. ambassador's residence where Secretary Shultz was staying, Beirut radio reported on 1 May. Druze-Christian artillery exchanges had erupted earlier in the Ash-Shuf mountain area nearby, the radio noted.

In a separate development European diplomatic sources cited by the London Arabic weekly AL-MAJALLAH disclosed that the Soviet Union has "advised" Israel through Romania against attacking Syria.

Saudi Commentary — Noting "some observations that a cautious optimism has appeared on the horizon of the negotiations," a 1 May Riyadh radio commentary said "the belief that a cautious relaxation might lead to an agreement seems to be

somewhat justified, judging by the fact that the United States seems to be firmer in dealing with any Israeli presence on Lebanese territory."

PLO

Damascus Meeting — Speaking at a Damascus meeting of its expanded Military Council, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said Secretary Shultz has undertaken his current Middle East mission in order to supervise the execution of "American imperialist plans against the Palestinian people." According to an AFP report citing the Palestinian news agency, 'Arafat's report to the council reviewed the Middle East situation in light of "the American political offensive and campaign of provocations against the PLO" and alleged Israeli threats to unleash "military aggression" against Syria, the report added. Earlier, at a 30 April press conference in Damascus, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir affirmed that no political initiative to resolve the Palestinian issue will succeed unless it recognizes the Palestinian people's national rights and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative. San'a' Voice of Palestine radio reported. Because of the continued U.S. support for Israel, Al-Wazir expressed doubts about the success of Shultz' current tour to the region, the radio added. At the same press conference, Al-Wazir announced that an Austrian mediator was given a videotape showing that the two Israeli soldiers captured by the PFLP-GC last September in Lebanon are in good health. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported on 1 May. He added that six other Israeli prisoners detained by Fatah have been visited by International Red Cross officials and journalists.

'Arafat Message to King Husayn — Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Jordan with a message for King Husayn from the PLO leader, according to an INA report on 2 May. Earlier, Radio Monte Carlo reported that Al-Hasan would deliver an "extremely important" personal message from 'Arafat to the Jordanian ruler. When asked about the contents of the message, Al-Hasan said it is "imperative" for the PLO to resume the dialogue with Amman and to bring about a joint Syrian-Jordanian-Palestinian move in this direction, according to the report.

Meetings with Soviet Officials — PFLP Secretary General George Habash, on a visit to the USSR, held talks with a number of Soviet officials concerning the situation in the Middle East in light of "Zionist-imperialist threats" against the area, according to an Algiers Voice of Palestine report on 30 April. Baghdad Voice of Palestine radio reported the same day that the Soviet ambassador in Damascus discussed the latest Middle East developments and the Palestinian issue with PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi and reiterated his country's support for the Palestinian people's struggle.

Syria

Syria is the main target of the current "conspiracy" of "Zionism and imperialism and their tools which have betrayed our Arab nation's interests," President Hafiz al-Asad told Syrian workers in a Labor Day message read out by a Ba'th Party official at a Homs rally and broadcast by Damascus radio. The Ba'th official, Regional Command Assistant Secretary Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, also told the rally in a speech broadcast by the radio that Secretary of State Shultz' Middle East tour is not an impartial attempt to secure peace but rather an effort to pressure and blackmail the Arabs into "capitulatory and defeatist solutions." Syria, which is "the only bastion of steadfastness and confrontation in the Arab region," is working to attain strategic balance with Israel and consolidate its defenses since Arab lands can be regained only by force, he affirmed.

Jordan

The Reagan plan is the "most daring step that any U.S. administration has ever taken," King Husayn declared in an interview with the Lebanese paper AN-NAHAR broadcast by Amman television. He dismissed alternatives to the U.S. initiative, saying an international conference is "out of our power" and the military alternative does not exist. Nevertheless, Husayn questioned U.S. credibility in securing an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and criticized U.S. unwillingness to talk directly to the PLO, asserting that the United States thereby bears some responsibility for the failure of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks. He said that, while it was natural for the Soviet Union to take a negative stand toward the Reagan plan, he did not believe the Soviet Union was responsible for the PLO's failure to reach agreement with Jordan. U.S.-Soviet agreement on the Middle East is "inevitable" at a certain stage, he declared.

Regarding Jordan's support for Palestinians living in Israeli-occupied territory, Husayn disclosed that one of the most important measures the Jordanians are currently discussing is "will we let Israel have the chance to force people to emigrate or not?" In a related development Jordanian "political circles" cited by AFP announced that Jordan is planning to introduce stricter controls on movement from the West Bank into Jordan in order to prevent a mass exodus of West Bank residents.

Egypt

Mubarak Speech — There is "no way" to continue the Middle East peace discussions without Jordanian-Palestinian participation, President Husni Mubarak declared in a May Day speech broadcast by Cairo radio. Reaffirming Egypt's call for the PLO and Jordan to reach agreement on participation in the peace process, Mubarak revealed that he recently received a letter from King Husayn affirming Jordan's commitment to maintaining a dialogue with the PLO. Mubarak also noted that in his 26 April meeting with George Shultz he told the secretary of state that Egypt attaches "top priority" to the need for a speedy agreement on Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

After reviewing Egypt's economic situation, Mubarak sharply criticized journalists who have been "lying and propagandizing for chaos" and "throwing dirt at all the values and sanctities."

Without mentioning anyone by name, he expressed displeasure at those who have been "well paid" for publishing hostile articles in the Arab press, including allegations that the October war was an "imaginary battle." Mubarak also warned against exploiting Egypt's economic difficulties and concluded his speech by announcing a Labor Day wage bonus for public sector employees.

Libyan Agents — The authorities have arrested a number of Libyan agents involved in a plan to establish underground "revolutionary committees" in Egypt, MENA reported citing the paper AKHBAR AL-YAWM.

Libya

The Libyan Armed Forces intercepted more than 100 U.S. aircraft near the Gulf of Sidra while "courageously confronting" the repeated and "insolent U.S. colonialist" attempts, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi said at a 30 April dinner hosted by Benin's president, according to JANA. Currently on a tour of African countries, the Libyan leader said "we should permanently encourage African peoples to revolution and incite the revolutionary forces in African armies to rejoin the African popular masses," according to a 29 April AFP report. In other JANA reports Al-Qadhafi was reported to have warned that any outside interference in Chad gives Libya the right to interfere, too, but he affirmed that Libya does not contemplate military intervention in Chad.

Iran

Communist Leader's Confession — Arrested Tudeh Party Secretary General Nureddin Kianuri confessed publicly to having been guilty of espionage, deceit, and treachery, admitting responsibility for serious aberrations "which deserve the most severe punitive actions that the Islamic Republic may decide to mete out." Speaking in an interview broadcast by Tehran television on 30 April, Kianuri said his party was guilty of six important errors: remaining dependent on the Soviet Union and engaging in espionage on its behalf; illegally retaining secret arms caches; maintaining a secret political organization in contravention of official rulings that such groups should be dissolved; establishing a secret group of officers which became an agency for collecting information for dispatch to the USSR; infiltrating the administration; and arranging illegal departures from the country. Kianuri expressed "chagrin and shame" over his misdeeds against Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and urged young Tudeh members to avoid participating in any leftist infiltration of Iran as this means "affiliation with foreigners and aliens."

In a related development Tehran radio reported earlier that, as a result of the confessions by Kianuri and other Tudeh leaders, revolution guards have arrested more party members and seized weapons stores. According to the clandestine Radio Iran, the Soviet Union has secretly urged high Iranian officials to prevent a public trial of the communist leaders.

Commenting on Kianuri's confession, Tehran radio said the revelation of the "filthy character" of the Tudeh leaders should serve as a lesson to those who give priority to the interests of foreigners. The "misled and ignorant" Tudeh members should

dissociate themselves from the party and return to the arms of the Muslim Iranian people "before it is too late," the radio advised.

New Navy Commander — A presidential decree broadcast by Tehran radio on 30 April announced the appointment of Captain Esfandiyar Hoseyni as commander of the Iranian Navy. The appointment was suggested by the Supreme Defense Council and approved by Ayatollah Khomeyni. Noting that the official announcement did not mention the reasons for the dismissal of Hoseyni's predecessor, Captain Azfali, the clandestine Radio Iran said the Supreme Defense Council wants to dismiss officers who oppose the continuation of the war.

POW's Freed — Iran released 32 invalid Iraqi POW's on 30 April, sending them home via Turkey, Tehran radio reported. Citing an Iranian official, IRNA announced on 1 May that Iraq had responded to the Iranian move by releasing 30 elderly Iranian villagers "kidnapped" by the Iraqis at the beginning of the war. "This was obviously a gesture to counter the genuine Islamic and humanitarian move" made earlier by Iran, the official contended.

Afghanistan

A Soviet transport aircraft carrying ammunition and troops was reportedly brought down on 25 April by a missile fired by Afghan resistance forces in Nangarhar Province. AFP and SPA reported over the weekend citing the AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS AGENCY. Earlier, Tehran television reported that Muslim revolutionaries captured a government base in Paktia Province after a month-long siege. BBC World Service reported on 1 May the establishment of a new guerrilla headquarters and training center in the same province designed to turn the anticommunist resistance units into a more effective fighting force.

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Barialay Addresses Kabul May Day Meeting

*LD302335 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT
30 Apr 83*

[Excerpts] This afternoon the workers and toilers of Kabul City held a grand meeting in the Kabul National Athletic Stadium on the occasion of the great world workers solidarity festival.

This glorious meeting was attended by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, PDPA Central Committee member and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, members of the Politburo, secretaries of the Party Central Committee, members of the Central Committee, members of the Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers, National Fatherland Front executive delegations, and guest delegations that had come to Kabul to take part in the celebration marking the fifth anniversary of the April Revolution.

Zohur Razmjo, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of Kabul City Party Committee, asked Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, to speak on behalf of the Politburo, the Party Central Committee, and the DRA Revolutionary Council.

Mahmud Barialay first conveyed congratulations and greetings from the Politburo, PDPA Central Committee, and the DRA Revolutionary Council, led by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, to the country's workers on the occasion of this international day of solidarity with the world working class. He then spoke of the working class' role and the festival of May Day, saying:

Some 90 years ago there were more than 10 million workers. The workers' movement began as a result of the struggles of [word indistinct] workers against the capitalist and exploitative regimes.

The celebration marking the fifth anniversary of the April Revolution was a crushing blow to imperialism, led by U.S. imperialism. Our people in all the cities of the homeland, in factories, streets, and corners marked this great event with happiness and enthusiasm.

Mahmud Barialay added: The warmongering forces of imperialism, led by U.S. imperialism, are threatening our world. The anniversary of May Day carries this slogan: Reagan, a warmongering adventurer, wants to fan nuclear war in Europe, Africa, and Latin America.

In conclusion, Mahmud Barialay said: We announce from this magnificent platform that the PDPA resolutely and relentlessly defends the statement of the Warsaw Pact Political and Consultative Committee and the USSR's peace proposals from the warmongering policies of the United States and the Reagan administration.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that Mahmud Barialay's passionate speech was welcomed with enthusiasm and the

chanting of revolutionary slogans by the workers and toilers of our city.

PDPA Central Committee Issues May Day Message

*LD010135 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT
30 Apr 83*

[PDPA Central Committee May Day message]

[Text] The PDPA Central Committee extends congratulations on May Day, a glorious festival of workers international solidarity, to all toilers of revolutionary Afghanistan.

The celebration of May Day in our country is profoundly linked with the name of the PDPA, the vanguard of the working class and all toilers of Afghanistan. On the initiative of the PDPA, the young working class of the country for the first time 17 years ago, on 1 May 1968, celebrated May Day as a festival of revolutionary solidarity and fraternity.

The PDPA with its principled struggle under conditions of feudal despotic domination, brought the country's worker movement to a new phase and prepared the ground for the class awareness of the toilers.

Workers and toilers of the country: We celebrate this year's May Day at a time when 5 years have passed since the victory of the national and democratic April Revolution.

The April Revolution, which has succeeded due to the will of the country's workers and toilers under the leadership of the PDPA, ended the domination of exploiters and oppressors and opened the way for the construction of a new and prosperous society in Afghanistan. The people's power was confronted with mad hostility by internal and external reaction from the first days of its establishment.

Imperialism and its collaborators are trying in vain to place obstacles before our victorious revolution and to block the victorious march of our people toward a bright future. But the working class and all toilers of the country, under the leadership of the PDPA and the DRA, with high revolutionary vigilance and steel-like unity will foil all sinister plots and conspiracies by the class enemies with the all-round help and support of our international friends, headed by the USSR, and will (?develop) the gains of the April Revolution.

The revolutionary working class of Afghanistan is not only defending its revolution and country but, with high internationalist spirit, is further strengthening its solidarity with the international working class and is supporting all national liberation movements and the struggle of all progressive forces of the world.

The April Revolution, by securing revolutionary and democratic sovereignty in the country, freed the toilers from feudal oppression and exploitation, transformed the working class into the owner of the means of production in the state sector and into a pioneer force for accomplishing revolutionary transformations in the country.

With the continuation of democratic land reform and the just distribution of water the peasants and toilers of the country were freed from the domination of feudal relations.

The April Revolution secured the democratic rights and freedoms of people and provided favorable conditions for better workers' living standards, ideological enhancement, improvement of professional skills and continuation of education in educational institutions and night courses and in foreign countries.

The working class of the country during the past 5 years have knowingly defended the gains of the revolution and have fulfilled their active role in (?developing) the gains of the revolution by creating self defense systems and defense groups in industrial organizations and by expanding work contests and voluntary work.

Revolutionary workers of the country, the future evolution of revolution requires that the working class of the country, in unity with peasants and other toilers, continuously increase their role in defending the gains of the revolution and fulfill the duties set out in the PDPA program of action for the construction of a new society in the country.

The PDPA Central Committee invites you to use all your talents and creative energy for the final victory of the revolution. Increase the effectiveness and quality of work, increase the level of production and the work output, and actively and resolutely take part in the defense of the gains of the revolution and in the struggle against its internal and external enemies. Institutionalize and strengthen work contests and voluntary work as new and constructive revolutionary phenomena.

Foreign Delegations Depart Kabul 29 April

GDR's Jarowski

LD291559 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1130 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Werner Jarowski, candidate Politburo member and secretary of the SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] Central Committee, who was in Kabul at the head of a delegation for the ceremonies marking the fifth April Revolution anniversary, left today for home.

The delegation was seen off at Kabul airport by Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Sakhi Daneshjo, deputy minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Asad Keshtmand, deputy head of the Party International Relations Department, and representatives of the Protocol Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the ambassador and members of the GDR Embassy in Kabul.

CSSR's Colotka

LD291613 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1130 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Peter Colotka, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium, federal vice premier and Slovak premier, who led a high-ranking delegation to Kabul to attend the ceremony marking the fifth anniversary of the glorious April Revolution, left Kabul today for home.

The delegation was seen off at Kabul airport by Major General Najibolah, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo; Sakhi Daneshjo, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Asad Keshtmand, deputy head of the Party Central Committee International Relations Department; a representative of the Foreign Ministry Protocol Department, and the CSSR ambassador in Kabul.

PDPA-FSLN Cooperation Protocol Signed

LD010259 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] A cooperation protocol between the PDPA and the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] was signed today in Kabul.

The protocol was signed by Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and PDPA Central Committee secretary, and [name indistinct], member of the Central Committee of the FSLN, in the Stoor Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to this protocol, the PDPA and the FSLN will comprehensively cooperate to strengthen and develop cooperation based on [word indistinct] relations, friendly and comradely relations, anti-imperialist and [word indistinct] solidarity.

The high-ranking Nicaraguan delegation arrived in Kabul to participate in the celebrations of the fifth anniversary of the April Revolution.

AFP Says Bombs Marred Kabul Anniversary Preparations

BK300122 Hong Kong AFP in English 0109 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Islamabad, April 29 (AFP) — Several bomb blasts in Kabul marred preparations for major festivities marking the fifth anniversary of the April 27 revolution that brought Marxist rule to Afghanistan, Western diplomatic sources here said today.

At least three bombs exploded Monday in the old Microrayon area of Kabul, occupied mostly by Soviet families and members of the ruling party, causing at least one death and a number of casualties, the sources added.

But no major resistance operations were reported on the Wednesday anniversary. The military parade took place without incident and President Babrak Karmal addressed the troops under tight security as Soviet helicopters and aircraft hovered constantly over the grounds.

Fighting Reported in Several Provinces

Civilian Deaths in Herat

NC291114 Paris AFP in English 1046 GMT 29 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 29 (AFP) — More than 3,000 civilians may have been killed around Herat during the Soviet-Afghan Army takeover of the western Afghan city, rebel sources here and in the northeast Iranian city of Mashhad said today.

On Tuesday, a rebel spokesman in Islamabad, in neighbouring Pakistan, had said that the insurgency had given up their positions in Herat because of the Soviet-backed offensive.

But fighting continued Wednesday and yesterday around the city and in the surrounding countryside, a member of the Jami'at-e Eslami grouping said from Mashhad today.

This source also told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the Soviet and Afghan forces had bombarded more villages, and "the toll that hit us earlier this week worsened with the discovery of more bodies under ruins."

Early this week, rebel sources in Iran had said about 1,500 people had been killed in the offensive, which began about two weeks ago. In Pakistan, rebel sources reported a death toll of about 500 people.

The rebel source today also said a government commemoration of the April 27, 1978 revolution that brought the communists to power was interrupted when insurgents began shelling central Herat.

Ten wounded Afghans are currently being treated in Iranian hospitals, he added.

Fighting in Helmand Province

BK301026 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have frustrated an attempt by the Soviet-Karmal troops to capture Naozad subdivision of the Helmand Province. According to reports, during the fighting on the 13th of this month a helicopter gunship was shot down by the freedom fighters while a number of tanks, armored vehicles, and Army trucks were either destroyed or damaged. The number of casualties of the Soviet-Karmal troops could not be known. The mujahidin are also reported to have attacked an Army post located in Moosa Qala, killing a number of soldiers and injuring several others. They also captured six heavy machineguns, one antiaircraft gun, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

Paktia Province Battle

OW302316 Hong Kong AFP in English 1934 GMT 30 Apr 83

[By Michel Martin Roland]

[Text] Fort Barri, eastern Afghanistan, April 30 (AFP) — Soviet

planes have been pounding mojahedin positions in eastern Paktia Province as guerrillas fighting the Soviet backed Kabul regime began preparations for a new offensive in the wake of their successful capture of the Fort Barri advance post, overlooking the town of Khoost. After besieging the fort for two months with mortars and rockets, the mojahedin made their final push into the beleaguered fort last April 26 with two Soviet-built tanks captured in an ambush of a convoy sent to strengthen the outposts' defences. The guerrillas, who have been fighting since Soviet troops invaded the country in December 1980 to bolster forces loyal to Afghan leader Babrak Karmal, seized all the fort's arms, ammunition and stocks before returning to the hills to escape Air Force reprisal raids. Taking advantage of the night, the mojahedin have hidden their new found spoils in mountain hideouts, one of which was chock-a-block with hundreds of anti-tank shells, anti-personnel mines, machine-gun rounds and sacks of Bulgarian flour. Two tanks were camouflaged with branches, their dismantled guns ready in case of an air strike. An hour's hard slog from the fort, the resistance fighters slept under the stars exhausted from the latest battle. A mere handful of sentries, cradling Kalashnikovs in their arms, kept watch and guarded prisoners. In a tent, six Soviet-trained Afghan tank officers listened, pale and frightened, to a mullah who harangued them for misdeeds for which they were ever eager to repent. Outside the odor of death hung heavy in the air. The bodies of some 50 prisoners, shot over the past 3 days, lay in a shallow pit covered only with a few meagre sods of earth. "Unrepentant communists were executed. Others who tried to escape were shot down," one of the guards said. A Russian-made truck returned to camp after having delivered new supplies of weapons to mojahedin on the plain who had begun pouring shells into Khoost airport. The vehicle stalled and some 20 men jumped up and made a poorly coordinated effort to get it moving. They stopped only to scrutinize a helicopter cruising the sky, itself searching for the source of the rounds of mortar fire. At dawn, the air raids began again on the mountains. With no anti-aircraft guns, the mojahedin were virtually defenceless against the helicopters. They crouched down, waited and prayed. Three months ago, some 12 of them were killed in a similar attack. Barri was the third advance outpost destroyed by the resistance since the battle for Khoost began 1 year ago. Four small forts remain but the town's 100 Soviet advisors, 3,000 Afghan soldiers and 5,000 militiamen have been cut off for over 2 years now from all road contact with the provincial capital, Gardez, some 100 kms (65 miles) away. The mojahedin lost 18 men in the battle for Barri and despite being keenly aware that in the case of Soviet troop intervention, their chances of taking the town are almost nil, the fighters remain as determined as ever.

Missile Downs MIG in Nangarhar

OW302301 Hong Kong AFP in English 2106 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Islamabad, April 30 (AFP) — Afghan guerrillas shot down a Soviet MIG aircraft with a missile in Marki Khel area of Nangarhar Province in eastern Afghanistan last Monday killing over a dozen aboard the plane, resistance-run AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) reported today.

The agency said the Soviet plane was carrying supplies for one of three military posts that have been under rebel pressure for

some time. Persistent reports here said that the Muslim resistance fighters have acquired a limited number of missiles from unidentified sources and the guerrillas fighting communist rule were using the weapons on a small scale. The agency did not identify the type of missile used. It said the plane carrying arms and ammunition to reinforce troops in Sherazad post exploded in mid-air soon after the missile hit the aircraft. AIP said over a dozen people including three Soviet pilots and two Russian advisors and three Afghan officers died in the crash. a force of some 150 guerrillas is fighting in the area, it said.

BBC Reports New Guerrilla Training Center

*TA011648 London BBC World Service in English
1600 GMT 1 May 83*

[Text] The BBC's Islamabad correspondent, who has just returned from a secret visit to the southern Afghanistan province

of Paktia, reports that the anticommunist guerrillas there appear to be taking steps to turn themselves into a more effective fighting force.

While in Paktia Province, our correspondent visited a new guerrilla headquarters a few miles from the border with Pakistan, where he found a training center for new recruits and well-stocked weapon stores. The commander of the guerrillas told him that he was planning to introduce uniforms and a system of ranks throughout his forces. Our correspondent says it seems clear that this represents a determined attempt to raise the guerrillas' low level of organization and military skill.

Gandhi Urges Khomeyni, Saddam Husayn To End War*BK300925 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Apr 83*

[Text] The prime minister has written to President Saddam Husayn of Iraq and Ayatollah Khomeyni of Iran, appealing to them to end the 31-month-old war between the two countries. Mrs Gandhi wrote the letters in her capacity as chairperson of the Nonaligned Movement. She expressed her conviction that the end of the conflict will go a long way toward strengthening the unity and solidarity of the Nonaligned Movement.

The prime minister is understood to have drawn the attention of the two leaders to the overwhelming view at the New Delhi summit that Iran and Iraq should put an end to their hostility.

Reportage on Nonaligned Ministerial Meeting**29 April Opening***BK290935 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Apr 83*

[Text] A 2-day ministerial conference of 10 nonaligned countries opened in New Delhi this morning. It was inaugurated by External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. The conference has been called in pursuance of the decision of the seventh New Delhi nonaligned summit to take up follow up action on major economic issues as outlined in the summit's final economic declaration. Among those attending the conference are the foreign ministers of Algeria, Argentina, Cuba, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Yugoslavia. Bangladesh is represented by its agriculture minister.

Global Economic Issues Viewed*BK291400 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 29 Apr 83*

[Text] The 2-day ministerial conference of nonaligned nations which began in New Delhi today considered at its first session the best means of bringing the concern of the movement on the serious global economic crisis to the attention of the developed nations of the West as well as the socialist countries.

The meeting, being held in camera, was opened by External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. After his inaugural address, the heads of delegations discussed informally various suggestions that came up before the meeting. Rao said the conference has to decide at what level the contacts are to be established with the advanced countries and the best method of getting the message through. The spokesman said the conference has been charged with the specific task of deciding the right action in view of several important meetings on international economic relations which are to take place shortly. These include the meeting of trade and development board of the UNCTAD, the summit meeting of trade and development board of the UNCTAD, the summit meeting of seven developed nations at Williamsburg, the meeting of COMECON council and the UNCTAD conference in Belgrade.

The meeting is being attended by nine nonaligned nations, including India. Yugoslavia, Sri Lanka, Algeria, Argentina and Indonesia and Cuba are represented by their foreign ministers. Agriculture minister of Bangladesh and the Tanzania minister without portfolio head the delegations of their countries.

Strategy Document Drafted*BK301248 Hong Kong AFP in English 1045 GMT 30 Apr 83*

[Excerpt] New Delhi, April 30 (AFP) — Foreign ministers and representatives of nine nonaligned nations agreed here this morning on a strategy drawing the attention of the industrialised countries to the Third World's economic plight.

A draft document has been drawn up to be presented for formal adoption this afternoon, a spokesman said.

The strategy stresses the need to break the North-South deadlock and build on the realisation that growth in developing countries could fuel a recovery in the industrialized world, thus sustaining global economic growth, the spokesman said.

The document calls for high level contacts with the rich nations before next month's Williamsburg summit and with other industrialised and Eastern bloc countries. The document is based on the nonaligned summit's economic declaration of last month, the spokesman added.

Press Release Issued*BK301549 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1523 GMT 30 Apr 83*

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] The ministerial meeting of nine nonaligned countries now in session in New Delhi has worked out and evaluated a broad strategy to break the present impasse in the North-South dialogue. A spokesman of External Affairs Ministry told newsmen that the ministers have completed their informal consultations on April 30 morning and instructed officials to prepare a draft containing their decision. The draft has almost been completed. It will be presented to the ministers when they meet at a formal session again on April 30 afternoon to adopt the document. The ministers will call on Mrs Gandhi in the evening.

Following is the text of a press release issued by the ministerial meeting of nonaligned countries on economic issues, New Delhi — April 83 [date as received]:

"The ministers of foreign affairs of Algeria, Argentina, Cuba, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Yugoslavia, the minister of agriculture and forests of Bangladesh and the minister without portfolio of Tanzania met in New Delhi on April 29-30, 1983 at the invitation of His Excellency P.V. Narasimha Rao, minister of external affairs of India, following an exchange of letters between the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, Indira Gandhi, and President J.R. Jayewardene of Sri Lanka. The purpose of the meeting was to consult together informally concerning the

strategy for discussions with the developed countries on the constructive proposals of the nonaligned summit for dealing with the world economic crisis, particularly on global negotiations and the programme of immediate measures, including the international conference on money and finance for development, to bring the world back to a path of sustained growth.

The ministers welcomed this initiative on the part of the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement to break the impasse in the North-South dialogue and recalled that this step was in continuation of the previous historic initiatives taken by the Nonaligned Movement of international economic issues. They emphasised the current need for developed countries to look for solutions to the major economic problems in partnership with developing countries. In this context they welcomed the growing realisation that the resumption of growth in the developing countries would not only promote recovery in the developed world but is also essential for sustained global economic growth. There was, therefore, need to provide new impetus to the international economic cooperation.

They noted with satisfaction that the declarations and message of the seventh nonaligned summit at New Delhi had provided an important input for the work of the developing countries at Buenos Aires.

The ministers emphasised the importance of high level contacts with developed countries to impress upon them the urgency of a dialogue on North-South issues to find solutions to the grave problems facing the world economy based upon cooperation and mutual interest.

The ministers also recommended that heads of state or government of nonaligned countries could, as and when opportunities arise, convey the substance of the New Delhi declarations and message to the leaders of the developed world.

The ministers noted that before UNCTAD 6 which is a major economic conference and the 38th session of the UN General Assembly a number of important meetings of developed countries are scheduled to take place. These include the Williamsburg summit of industrialised countries, the CEMA summit and the OECD ministerial meeting. It is important that these gatherings which will be held in the next few weeks be seized of the proposals of the nonaligned summit on economic questions. As an immediate step, they requested the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement to address suitably the President of the United States of America and other participants in the Williamsburg summit, the president of the GDR and other participants of the CEMA summit and the members of the OECD through the secretary general of that organisation.

They recalled the provisions of paragraph 49 of the economic declaration of the New Delhi summit in which the heads of state or government requested the chairman to invite a group of heads of state or government to hold discussions with other world leaders on the substance of the New Delhi declarations and message. They requested the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement to take further appropriate action in this regard keeping in view all relevant factors."

Meeting Ends; Gandhi Meets Delegates

BK 301625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
30 Apr 83

[Excerpts] The ministerial meeting of the nine nonaligned countries has emphasized the importance of high level contacts with developed nations to impress upon them the urgency of a dialogue on North-South issues. This is needed to find solutions to the grave problems facing the world economy based on cooperation and mutual interest. The meeting ended in New Delhi today.

After the conclusion of the conference, the ministers called on Mrs Gandhi.

Minister's Statement on Punjab Clarified

BK 291619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
29 Apr 83

[Text] It was officially clarified in the Rajya Sabha today that the home minister had at no time spoken of an ultimatum while replying to the calling attention motion on the Punjab situation yesterday. The minister of state for home affairs told the house that no such threat was given by the home minister. He made the statement after (A.R. Sharian), Janata, referred to this morning's press reports which, he said, were distorted. Venkatasubbiah said the home minister has made the most conciliatory statement. He had appealed to the Akali leadership not to shelter criminals. It would be in the fitness of things for the Akali leadership to respond positively to the home minister's appeal.

Venkatasubbiah recalled that the home minister has all along been speaking of persuading the people and had been saying that there should be no confrontation. The home minister had said that the government is prepared to resume negotiations. If [Akali leader] Longowal or anybody is prepared to come, the government will be prepared to talk to them.

The deputy chairman, Shyam Lal Yadav, said it is unfortunate that a wrong impression has been created by a newspaper report. He observed that the press should report the proceedings factually. It should clarify the position. If necessary All India Radio should also do so.

Our correspondent points out that the word ultimatum was not used by All India Radio in its report.

Meanwhile, a meeting of some opposition leaders in parliament has urged the government to concentrate on persuasion and negotiations for finding a solution to the Punjab problem. They said at the same time the Akali Dal should denounce the use of violence and terrorist activities. The opposition leaders felt the issues can be solved by mutual display of restraint, reasonableness, and commitment to the national good. They expressed their disapproval of the use of religion and religious places to obstruct legal process of punishment of persons accused of grave crimes.

Gandhi Rejects President's Rule for Punjab

BK010918 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
1 May 83

[Text] The prime minister has ruled out the possibility of imposing president's rule in Punjab. Talking to newsmen at the Lucknow airport on her way to Rae Bareilly, Mrs Gandhi said the government is not considering any such proposal as the step is not warranted by the situation in the state. She blamed the opposition members for the present situation there. Mrs Gandhi said the opposition first aggravates the situation by inciting the public and later, when it goes out of their control, they start raising a hue and cry against the government. Mrs Gandhi reiterated that the government will not allow under any circumstances to further deteriorate the situation in Punjab. It will take all possible steps to deal with those bent upon to vitiate the atmosphere.

In reply to a question, Mrs Gandhi agreed that some foreigners are behind the secessionists in Punjab. She said the government is aware of this but she refused to identify who they are. The prime minister said several Sikh and other organizations have demanded to take appropriate action to arrest the antinational elements taking shelter in the premises of the Golden Temple. But, she said, some other aspects have to be considered before taking any such action.

Earlier, on her arrival, Mrs Gandhi was received at the airport by the governor, Mr C.P.N. Singh, the chief minister, Mr Sripati Misra, his Cabinet colleagues and the All India Congress Committee-I general secretary, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Later, the prime minister flew to Rae Bareilly accompanied by the chief minister and Mr Rajiv Gandhi. At Rae Bareilly, Mrs Gandhi will attend a development seminar and later address a public meeting. From Rae Bareilly, she will go to Kanpur where Mrs Gandhi will address the concluding session of the Pradesh Congress-I Committee.

The prime minister will return to the capital in the evening.

Further Report

BK011633 Delhi Domestic Service English 1530 GMT
1 May 83

[Excerpts] The prime minister has reiterated the government's resolve to settle the Akali problem through negotiations and denied any move to impose president's rule in Punjab. Talking to newsmen at Lucknow airport and later addressing a public meeting in Rae Bareilly today, Mrs Gandhi emphasized that the government has not served any ultimatum to the Golden Temple authorities to hand over the extremists hiding there.

The opposition is also creating obstacles in the implementation of the welfare program for the people. She said she does not know whether they are trying to weaken the country knowingly or unknowingly. But one thing is certain that this will harm the country. The need of the hour is to maintain the unity and integrity of the nation, she said.

About Assam, Mrs Gandhi said violence was there even before

the election. Those who are supporting the Assam agitation do not want to strengthen the nation.

Talking to newsmen in Rae Bareilly, Mrs Gandhi said some opposition parties are trying to create confusion by talking about mid-term poll.

About the functioning of the Uttar Pradesh Government, she said on the whole it is working well.

Mrs Gandhi also said nobody has met her with allegations against the Punjab chief minister, Mr Darbara Singh.

Sikh Panel Denies Criminal Suspects in Temples

BK301607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
30 Apr 83

[Text] The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temples Management] Committee [SGPC] has denied that any of the suspects involved in incident of violence were hiding in Sirai Guru Ramdas or Guru Nanak Niwas in the Golden Temple complex. This was stated by the SGPC secretary, Mr (Iqbal Singh), in a letter to the district police chief released to the press in Amritsar today. The letter was in reply to the communication by the district police chief listing the names of 40 persons wanted by the police and allegedly staying in the Golden Temple complex.

Akali Leaders Warn Against Golden Temple Entry

BK011611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
1 May 83

[Text] A procession was taken out from a place near Bhatinda in Punjab today in memory of those who died in police firings during the Akali Dal road blockade agitation last month. Addressing the congregation, Akali leaders condemned the murder of Mr A.S. Atwal, deputy inspector general, but they warned the authorities against allowing the police to enter the Golden Temple complex.

Tudeh Party Members, 'Agents' Arrested

LD291206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
29 Apr 83

[Statement issued by Public Relations Office of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Central Headquarters --date not given]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The selfless nation, the vigilant nation, following the arrest of a number of Tudeh Party Central Committee members and leaders, the discovery of documents and papers, efforts by our brothers, and clear and open confessions of espionage, treason, and conspiracy, the selfless combatants of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, with the cooperation of the 36-million-strong intelligence service of the martyr-nurturing nation, have dealt another blow to the disintegrating corpse of world oppression. A number of members and treacherous agents of the Tudeh Party have been arrested. A considerable quantity of arms and ammunition, copying and duplicating machines, and a large number of forged documents and papers were confiscated from the group's den of corruption.

Further details will be brought to the attention of the vigilant and revolutionary nation.

IRNA Report

GF301640 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Tabriz, April 30, IRNA — The recent arrest of some other agents of the treacherous Tudeh Party was made in the wake of the confessions by those agents who had been arrested earlier, and after a thorough analysis of their statements which indicated that there were still some other agents who were engaged in espionage and treason.

Talking to IRNA here today, Prosecutor General of the Islamic Revolution Hoseyn Musavi-Tabrizi added that some of those arrested are from various provinces whose numbers and names will be released later on.

President Khamene'i Appoints New Navy Commander

LD301433 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
30 Apr 83

[Text] At the suggestion of the Supreme Defense Council and with the approval of Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic Revolution and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Captain Esfandiyar Hoseyni was appointed commander of the Navy of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The text of the Supreme Defense Council suggestion to the commander in chief is as follows:

In His exalted name, the great leader of the revolution and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, in implementing the contents of Principle 110 of the Constitution, the Supreme Defense Council suggests to his holiness the appointment of Capt Esfandiyar Hoseyni as the commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council

The text of the agreement of the leader of the Islamic Revolution and commander in chief is as follows:

In His exalted name, it is agreed.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, 30 April 1983

The text of the decree appointing the new commander of the Navy of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran is as follows:

In His exalted name, Capt Esfandiyar Hoseyni, the great leader of the revolution and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, at the suggestion of the Supreme Defense Council, has appointed you commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, 30 April 1983

Radio Iran Comments

GF301544 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian
1330 GMT 30 Apr 83

[Text] Following the surfacing of differences among the commanders and officers of the Armed Forces, the Supreme Defense Council removed Captain Afzali as commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic today and in another coup d'etat in the cadre of the military commanders, it appointed Captain Esfandiyar Hoseyni to head the naval command.

Contrary to its usual practice, not the slightest inkling on the reason for the dismissal of the former commander was given. It is being said in military circles that soon there will be considerable changes and reshuffles in the army's ranks and cadres, especially in the headquarters. The Supreme Defense Council wants to dismiss those officers and commanders of the Armed Forces who are against the continuation of the war policies of the mullahs.

The regime's radio did not broadcast anything on the fate of Capt Afzali who was an accomplice of Ruhollah Khomeyni's regime's treachery against the national ideals of the Iranian Armed Forces.

Khomeyni Receives New Commander

LD011943 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
1 May 83

[Text] According to our correspondent, in an audience today with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Brigadier General Qasem 'Ali Zahirnezhad, chief of Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, introduced Captain Esfandiyar Hoseyni, the new commander of the Navy to the commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

During the audience, Brig Gen Zahirnezhad informed the commander in chief that the new naval commander is one of the Navy's command officers with higher education and he had attended the naval college as well as the staff command college staff course and has a lot of experience in various fields.

According to our correspondent, following his audience, Capt Esfandiyyar Hoseyni commented on the Navy's future and training in the naval force:

In accordance with the directives and guidance of the imam of the nation we will consider the war our priority and we hope that as in the past, when the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran wrote epics in its encounters with the Navy of the aggressor Saddam, we will, God willing, continue on the same path with increased and more fruitful efforts and deal more blows on the mercenaries of America in the Persian Gulf and in the Gulf of Oman.

Commenting on the issue of training in the Navy, he said: The Navy is a special field and since we intend to become self-sufficient we should transfer the expertise acquired in the past abroad to our own country. He added: Fortunately, the necessary steps have been taken in that direction and, thank God, the naval college has also resumed its activities.

Concluding his remarks, the new naval commander stressed the issue of self-sufficiency and the use of science and technology in the fight against the superpowers. He added: We have a number of programs through which, God willing, we will achieve our sacred aims. The Navy's programs, which have been announced in the past, will continue and we hope to succeed in the important task entrusted to us with the guidance of the imam and in the service of Islam.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,300

LD291828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
29 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,300 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. On the southern fronts and in the Wal Fajr operations zone yesterday, our combative heroes continued to effectively defend guarded positions and areas and pressured and controlled the enemy with their heavy fire.

In the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational areas, exchanges of sporadic fire took place, with the forces of Islam silencing enemy fire and destroying one Iraqi ammunition dump, three slit trenches and foxholes, and five observation posts.

The city of Abadan came under the enemy's periodic heavy weapons fire yesterday; one house was destroyed.

In the western operational region yesterday, exchanges of artillery and mortar fire took place. The fire of the combative units of the army of Islam killed and wounded a number of Saddamist

mercenaries along this region's fronts. Several trenches were set on fire and several enemy vehicles damaged.

In the Marivan area, our servicemen's fire on enemy positions on the other side of the border stopped the Saddamists' movements and silenced their heavy weapons fire.

In the past 24 hours, enemy air aggression and reconnaissance flights were foiled by our air defense units, and the tactical measures by the fighter aircraft of the Air Force forced the intruding aircraft to flee.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,301

LD302000 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
30 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,301 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Our dear compatriots hereby are informed of the current situation on the fronts of the imposed war. Exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued sporadically on most of the country's southern and western fronts in the past 24 hours. The resisting and able combatants of Islam maintained the upper hand while consolidating and defending their positions, and inflicted losses and casualties on the mercenary Ba'thist forces of Iraq. Our combatants destroyed enemy artillery and heavy weapons positions and killed or injured a number of enemy personnel. Iraqi operations were virtually halted as a result of our forces timely fire which controlled Iraqi movements.

As a result of the army's constant artillery fire on the Marivan front, Saddamists' personnel and weapons concentrations in the Hargineh and [word indistinct] regions were leveled. Our combatants destroyed a number of Iraqi bunkers and killed a number of enemy personnel.

The combatants of Islam's retaliatory fire on the enemy's concentrations and fortifications, on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts halted Iraqi weapons fire and set on fire and destroyed more than five of the mercenary Saddamists' foxholes and bunkers. All of the occupants were killed. The city of Abadan remained under the enemy artillery fire yesterday. Two of our dear compatriots were injured and a number of civilian houses were destroyed.

As a result both of our air defense units' fire and of the tactical operations by the fighter aircraft belonging to the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, all of the aggressor Iraqi Armed Forces aircraft which attempted to violate our frontier region's airspace in the past 24 hours were driven off.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,302

*LD011752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
1 May 83*

[Communique No 1,302 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Exchanges of fire between the combative units of Islam and the enemy in the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational theater took place yesterday, destroying 3 enemy observation posts and bunkers and a number of vehicles on the other side of the Arvand Rud, and killing 15 Iraqis.

On the other southern fronts, our combatants' ungrudging efforts in defending their positions and returning enemy fire disrupted enemy engineering work to build emplacements and prevented enemy reconnaissance and penetration activities.

On the Ham border fronts, sporadic exchanges of fire continued during the past 24 hours. The fire of the combatants of Islam killed a number of Iraqis. During exchanges on the Bakhtaran border fronts, our combatants alternately brought enemy artillery positions and supply routes under artillery and heavy weapons fire, inflicting losses and casualties on the Saddamists.

In the Marivan sector, our forces fired on the Biyareh Garrison and destroyed a number of Iraqi infantry bunkers near Panjwin.

Abadan was brought under enemy heavy weapons fire yesterday, which destroyed five houses and shops and damaged parts of a mosque.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

First Group of Iraqi POW's Leaves for Turkey

*LD301430 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
30 Apr 83*

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent, following the Supreme Defense Council's decision on the unilateral repatriation of invalid Iraqi POW's, the first group of 32 POW's left Tehran this morning for Turkey.

The Iraqi POW's, who were accompanied by a six-man delegation, consisting of the representatives of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Foreign Ministry, and the International Red Cross, were examined by the Red Cross doctors before leaving Tehran.

In Turkey, this group will be handed over to representatives of the Foreign Ministry and the International Red Cross. It should be noted that, at the suggestion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey has agreed to accept these POW's and to hand them over to Iraq.

Gharazi Discusses Oil Issues After Khomeyni Meeting

*LD301744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
30 Apr 83*

[Interview given by Petroleum Minister Gharazi following his 30 April audience with Ayatollah Khomeyni — Recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Engineer Gharazi, you were received in audience by the imam of the Islamic nation. Could you please give us an idea about the issues raised during the audience?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Today I had the honor of being received in audience by the imam of the Islamic nation to whom I reported on all the developments and accomplishments in the oil sector. Last year, oil worth \$23 billion was sold and \$21.4 billion was deposited in the country's treasury. All of the agreements the international division concluded with the oil purchasers were carried out. Although Khark Island was under military threat, none of our agreements was delayed; the Islamic Republic was able to control the course of OPEC's policy and to effect some guidance within OPEC so that no one would either sell below the stipulated prices or sell more than his quota.

Talks were also held on the management and [word indistinct] and refining. The capacity of our refineries was increased to a maximum of 370,000 barrels per day [bpd]. Engine oil, gasoline, and gas oil were removed from rationing last year. Engine oil was previously imported, but this is no longer necessary. Last year 16.4 million liters of kerosene were distributed, and the imam advised that if our next winter is similar to this year's winter, we should think of the people who are ever present on the arena of struggle. [Passage indistinct]

I begged to inform his holiness about the management of the continental shelf, the production of which had increased from 136,000 to 300,000 bpd. [Passage indistinct] With regard to the southern division, his holiness was informed that production reached 3.2 million barrels, that no agreement concerning production in the south faced any problems and, thanks be to God, that all of the materials needed have been sorted out and organized. The drilling division increased its drilling rigs from 4 to 13 and drilling has begun in the sea. The exploration and production division has been able to carry out all of the tasks entrusted to it, particularly with regard to production. Production of the Ahvaz pipe manufacturing factory and the production division — which produced 2,000 - 3,000 tons per month in 1981 — has now reached 12,000 tons per month. As for the Khark Island management, despite all the problems it faced Khark's loading capacity reached a maximum not even equalled during the previous regime.

The reconstruction of manpower: it was explained to his holiness that of the 85,000-strong work force we need, up to 1600 have been hired. Some 1,000 new specialists, dedicated specialists, were employed.

He was also informed about the petrochemical management and the fact that the Shiraz chemical fertilizer plant would be

commissioned by the end of the current year with a production capacity of 1 million tons of chemical fertilizer.

Environment Director Explains Oil Slick Meeting

*GF290807 Tehran International Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 29 Apr 83*

[Text] Mirza Taheri, deputy prime minister and director of the environmental protection organization, returned to Tehran yesterday after participating in the third meeting of the Kuwait environmental protection conference.

In an exclusive statement to our correspondent, Mirza Taheri said: During this meeting, the Iraqi regime tried to link the issue of control of oil slick with political issues and cease-fire, but the Iranian side rejected this.

He added: The Iranian delegation to Kuwait affirmed that the issue of oil fields is a technological one and the region's countries can deal with the oil slick without any foreign aid. However, the Iraqi regime is trying to weaken the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment and to refer the matter to the United Nations.

Mirza Taheri continued: Iran has announced its readiness to deal with the floating oil slick and has requested the region's countries to take the appropriate measures to control the oil wells.

30 April Interview

*LD302117 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
30 Apr 83*

[Text] In an interview today, the deputy prime minister in charge of the organization for protection of the environment, who had gone to the Kuwait convention, commented on the session's outcome and the steps taken by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to stop the oil leak and the expanding pollution of Persian Gulf waters. Referring to the Baghdad regime's delegation's lack of cooperation with the decisions made at the third session of the Kuwait convention, he said:

The Iraqi delegation, which took part in the convention's recent session even though the necessary authority had not been invested in it, followed its bosses' orders and directed all its efforts to proving that the convention could not solve the issue of oil leaking from Iranian oil wells and taking the issue to the United Nations. Fortunately, the delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran's proposals drew the attention of those taking part in the convention. The participants decisively supported the Islamic Republic of Iran's proposals and asked for an investigation into the issue of the oil leaking from Iranian oil wells and efforts by the Kuwait convention to stop the expanding pollution of the Persian Gulf waters. He stressed: The Kuwait convention participants' opposition to the Baghdad regime's proposal to take the investigation into the leak from oil wells to the United Nations was a defeat for the Iraqi regime.

Commenting on the outcome of the third Kuwait convention

session, the head of the organization for the protection of the environment said: The main points of the resolution compiled by this session were based on the views held by the Islamic Republic of Iran, emphasizing the fact that the oil leaking from oil wells and the pollution resulting from it is a technical and not a political issue, and the technical work involved in stopping the leak should be planned and followed up by the countries [word indistinct] of the region. He added: At this session it was also decided that the facilities that the committed countries of the region have provided to cap the oil wells and fight the pollution of Persian Gulf waters should be put at the disposal of the convention's technical committee and new proposals passed by that committee should be discussed at another session and implemented after approval.

Commenting on the Iranian experts' capabilities for capping the leaking oil wells, the head of the organization for the protection of the environment said: Iranian skilled experts have the expertise to cap the leakage, and as soon as the region's security is ensured they will start the technical work involved in the capping of the oil wells.

Afghan Mujahidin Liberate Base in Paktia

*GF290917 Tehran Domestic Television Service in Persian
1700 GMT 28 Apr 83*

[Excerpts] According to reports from Afghanistan, the Muslim revolutionaries of this country have liberated the (Bari) base 6 km north of the city of Khowsht in Paktia Province, after 5 days of fighting.

According to the same report, a number of government forces were killed in these operations and 16 of them, including 6 of their officers, surrendered to the Muslim revolutionaries. The (Bari) base has been under the siege of the Muslim revolutionaries for months and finally the liberating operations were initiated last week.

Last Friday a military convoy on its way to the aforementioned base was attacked. According to sources close to the Muslim revolutionaries, 200 were killed or wounded in these operations.

In addition, as a result of heavy clashes between the Muslim revolutionaries and the combined occupationist and government forces in Nimruz Province, the Muslim revolutionaries were successful in killing and wounding some of the combined troops and inflicting damage on their carriers in the vicinity of the (Sad-e Kamal Khan) project workshop. In this clash, one revolutionary was martyred.